

BN Confident Of Retaining Kuala Besut State Seat
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) is confident of retaining the Kuala Besut state seat in an impending by-election as it has always been its stronghold, said Member of Parliament for Besut Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

"I know the constituents well and understand this area... let the opposition pact says anything they want.

"Most important, the constituents appreciate the good deeds done by the BN government for them over the years," he told reporters at Parliament lobby here today.

The Kuala Besut state seat fell vacant after its assemblyman, Dr A Rahman Mokhtar died of a lung cancer at the Sultanah Nur Zahirah Hospital in Kuala Terengganu yesterday.

Idris, who is Besut Umno division head and second education minister, said the division would hold a meeting by the end of the week to map out election strategies and reactivate the election machinery.

"The meeting will be attended by representatives of Umno headquarters. We will work hard to defend the seat," he added.

Two-term assemblyman A. Rahman, 55, of the BN retained the seat after beating Napisah Ismail of PAS with a 2,434-vote majority in the 13th general election on May 5.

He was Terengganu health, and women, family and community development committee chairman.

With his death, the state BN hangs precariously to power with 16 seats against Pakatan Rakyat's 15 (PAS 14 while PKR one).

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Terengganu PAS commissioner Mohd Abdul Wahid Endut said despite winning the seat only twice in 13 general elections, it was not impossible for PAS to win for the third time.

"We will work hard and God willing, we will create an upset in Kuala Besut. I want PAS branches in Kuala Besut to start making preparation," he told reporters at a news conference at the PAS Kuala Ibai Office here.

Mohd Abdul Wahid, who is also Wakaf Mempelam assemblyman, said if PAS were to wrest the seat from the BN, it would change the state's political landscape as both parties would be tied with 16 seats.

"If this were to happen, we will refer the matter to the Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and seek legal advice. It had never happened before," said Mohd Abdul Wahid.

On PAS candidate, he said PAS branches and members could propose names to the party.

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